



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 18 NEW LEARN AND EARN SCHOOLS OPEN FOR FALL
New School Opens Today in Forsyth County

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced that 18 new *Learn and Earn* Schools will open across the state this fall. One of the new schools, the Early College at Forsyth in Winston-Salem, opens today.

“With 18 new schools opening this fall, more students than ever have a chance to attend a *Learn and Earn* school and earn a free associate’s degree or two years of college credit along with their high school diploma,” said Easley. “*Learn and Earn* and the EARN grants are the best thing to happen to education in a long time. These new schools are providing thousands of students the opportunity to get a free college education and prepare for successful in careers in the 21st century.”

The Early College of Forsyth is a small high school with less than 400 students located on the main campus of Forsyth Technical Community College. Students at the school are expected to successfully complete high school and college coursework to receive their Associate in Arts Transfer Diploma in four years and their Associate in Arts degree in five years.

There are 60 *Learn and Earn* schools opening this fall across the state. Most schools are located on a community college or university campus and allow students to take college courses, tuition free. After no more than five years of study, students earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit or an associate’s degree for free. Other new schools are opening in the next few weeks in Bertie, Cleveland, Currituck, Forsyth, Guilford, Hertford, Hyde, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Madison, Tyrrell and Warren counties.

Students who do not live near a *Learn and Earn* high school can receive college credit for free by enrolling in *Learn and Earn Online*. As with *Learn and Earn* high schools, students can earn both high school diploma and an associate’s degree or two years of transferable college credit to any state university in up to five years of study. Access to these courses is provided at every public high school in the state.

The EARN (Education Access Rewards North Carolina) Grants join with other forms of assistance, such as federal Pell Grants, to replace the need for student loans. When fully-implemented, the EARN grants will provide 25,000 students from families earning less than 200 percent of the poverty level, \$4,000 a year in assistance for two years. Students receiving the grant will be required to keep their grades up and pay some nominal costs through earned income or work service credit. These grants make a debt-free college degree attainable for many students. For more information about any of these programs visit www.nclearnandearn.gov.